
Washington envisions a nationally recognized fully integrated One-Stop system with enhanced customer access to program services, improved long-term employment outcomes for job seekers and consistent, high quality services to business customers. In order to achieve this vision, the WorkSource Standards & Integration Division sets a common direction and standards for Washington's WorkSource system through the development of WorkSource system policies, information memoranda, and technical assistance.

WorkSource Advisory Bulletin 10-07

**TO: Workforce Development Councils
WorkSource Area Directors
Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board**

FROM: Amy Smith-Rubeck, Deputy Assistant Commissioner

DATE: May 24, 2011

**SUBJECT: Analysis of Department of Labor Training & Employment Notice No. 36-10:
Implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: Workforce Development and
Unemployment Insurance Provisions**

1. Purpose:

The purpose of this bulletin is to provide new information from the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) relating to Training and Employment Notice (TEN) 36-10, which covers early evaluations of DOL-funded American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) programs in states.

2. Action:

None.

3. Background:

This is an extensive interim report on ARRA funding for WIA, Wagner-Peyser, Reemployment Services, and Labor Market Information. When completed, a final report will have more definitive data results and conclusions. There are valuable insights in this TEN; in addition to discussing ARRA, this publication also discusses the major purpose, target groups, and services of programs.

4. Information:

The report generally covers the following information in approximately eight chapters and includes the addition of almost 25 one-page "exhibits" of charts or matrices with specific examples of state experiences on a wide range of subtopics.

a. State Approaches and General Observations

- Depicts a balance of both general findings and discussion of the reasons how or why states may have varied on specific factors.
- Reflects the unique foundation of state workforce development philosophies, policies, and ongoing organizational and service delivery approaches and how states choose to focus, continue or change a program given additional funding, increased demand, and federal parameters.
- Early planning and start up, organizational and staffing responses, and early fund planning and expenditure information are covered in this section.

b. Program Summaries

- Sections on each major program are included: WIA Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs; Wagner-Peyser Employment Services; Reemployment Services; Trade Adjustment Assistance Program.
- Other related programs more briefly discussed include Labor Market Information Systems Improvements, Green Jobs Initiatives, and subsidized employment.
- Interesting, detailed information across states summarize sub topics within each ARRA program fund source on subjects ranging from services, activities emphasis, customer impacts, staffing impacts, targeting, policy direction, challenges and achievements.
- Challenges, accomplishments and expectations for the future are also captured by state.
- The broad impression is the uniqueness of state's flexibility in using an infusion of federal funding given significant requirements and an immediacy to address problems of a major economic downturn and large percentage increase in unemployed individuals seeking assistance.

c. Some of the challenges encountered include:

- Spending Recovery Act funds rapidly was difficult for a number of reasons: 1) hiring freezes prevented adding needed staff; 2) ETA guidance to exempt Recovery Act hiring was not honored or waivers to remove the general hiring requirement were slow to implement; 3) approval by state legislatures to spend Recovery Act funds was slow; 4) state and local civil service hiring is often a slow process; and 5) collective bargaining agreements restricted the use of temporary workers.
- The pressure to spend Recovery Act funds rapidly and added reporting requirements overburdened staff.
- All states visited voiced concerns about reductions to previous service levels after the Recovery Act funds are exhausted, even though the need and demand for services was

likely to remain at record levels.

d. Some of the accomplishments to date include:

- Moving quickly to implement Recovery Act workforce provisions;
- Establishing a Workforce Investment Act (WIA) summer youth program on short notice;
- Increasing the capacity of the workforce system to serve more customers;
- Helping unemployment insurance (UI) claimants get back to work through reemployment services;
- Shaping an improved employment service -UI relationship and WIA partnership with education; and
- Creating more opportunities for Americans to acquire new skills through training.

A final section of the report includes a description of the UI research plan being used for reporting on the use of ARRA funding and its status. It also includes a list of questions to be asked and interview guides.

5. References:

U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Training and Employment Notice No. 36-10: Implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: Workforce Development and Unemployment Insurance Provisions, April 25, 2011.

6. Website:

<http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/attach/TEN/TEN36-10.pdf>

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